

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 27, 2008 has been received and carefully noted.

Claims 1, 4-18, and 21-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration.

Claims 1, 4-11, 18, and 21-25 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 19, and 20 have been canceled herein. A listing of claims can be found on pages 2-6 of this Response.

It is noted that the Office Action mailed October 27, 2008 does not set forth a rejection of claims 3 and 20. The Examiner confirmed on December 4, 2008 in a telephone call with Olivia J. Tsai (Reg. No. 58,350) that claims 3 and 20 (dependent from claims 2 and 19, respectively, which in turn depend from independent claims 1 and 18, respectively) are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Thus, the Applicant has transferred the content of claims 2 and 3 into independent claim 1 and the content of claims 19 and 20 into independent claim 18. The Applicant has endeavored to include the allowable subject matter in independent claims 11 and 25 as well. The Applicant has amended claims 4-10 and 21-24 only to correct their dependencies on claims now canceled. As each of dependent claims 4-10, 12-17, 21-24, 26, and 27 depends from one of independent claims 1, 11, 18, and 25, the Applicant believes that the all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of all current rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Dated: December 16, 2008



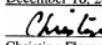
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted online via EFS Web to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 16, 2008.


Christine Flores